



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – MAY 27, 2025 **COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, *Ms. Abbott, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland, Ms. Hernandez
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Ms. Cody, Mr. Bush; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** Montanette Rocker, Executive Director of the Human Rights
 - a. **Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County/Syracuse Commission on Human Rights (Adam Leslie)**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 5 Absent: 2 (Abbott, Romeo); MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Garland and Ms. Hernandez requested to be added as cosponsors.

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Are there issues with having a quorum?
 - Will not as they bring more people to the Commission
 - Capacity is 13 on the board; currently have 7 and this will make 8
 - Mayor has 3 people to appoint, and one person has been interviewed
2. **PROBATION:** Kristen Jackson, Director
 - a. **Amending the 2025 Onondaga County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Onondaga County Youth Justice Alternatives and Diversion Programming (\$1,000,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

Onondaga County Probation Department **Youth Justice Alternatives and Diversion Programming**

Award Amount: \$1,000,000

Contract #: C450895

Program Description: This funding will support enhancing youth justice alternatives and diversion programs and services within the Onondaga County Probation Department. This funding is intended to establish or expand programs and services for justice system-involved youth that effectively intervene in their lives to reduce criminal behavior and provide structured opportunities to promote positive development. These opportunities may include but are not limited to personal and professional skill-building, support to navigate and connect to education or employment, mentorship, trauma-informed therapies, and other resources that help young people avoid further involvement in the justice system and help change their thinking and behavior. Programs and services supported by this funding should be aligned and coordinated with the City of Syracuse.

Onondaga County's Planned Fund Utilization

- **Restorative Justice Coordination** – we intend to release a RFP to form a larger “Restorative Justice Coalition” modeled after Erie County. We would be looking for an agency to coordinate and deliver the services listed below. While Erie County’s structure serves the RTA 16-17 year old population, we would look to cater this to include the 12-15 year old youth.
- **Formal Mentorship** – The county has Big Brothers/Big Sisters but the pairing process takes longer than the diversion or probation supervision process. The additional funds could be used to pay for a FT Manager who would manage the matches. Ex: Divine Nine, Black Men United, Iron Sharpens Iron, local organizations and local churches.
- **Victim Liaison for the Juvenile Justice Unit** – this role would serve as a part of the coalition and would connect victims to services and encourage participation in restorative justice circles, coordinate community education sessions regarding juvenile justice in Onondaga County, and serve as a liaison to victims between probation, the presentment agency, and the courts.
- **Restorative Justice Circle Programming** – the agency selected through the RFP process would host restorative circle programming at their location, and coordinate participation based on referrals from probation and the Courts.
- **Animal welfare program** – research is promising in this area to encourage younger youth to develop empathy while learning to care for animals.

\$300,000

Creation of a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) – This concept was presented at the APPA conference in NYC in 2023. National Standards have been published by the National Institute of Corrections. A request for TA for this project has been approved and has been discussed with local and county officials who are on-board with creation of the council (Probation, Sheriff, MH, County Executive, Courts, DA’s, Assigned Counsel, and Syracuse Police). These funds would be used to fund a neutral party who would operate an independent office to oversee the council. Initial conversations with NIC have indicated that startup costs are minimal, and there may be federal grant funding available thru NIC/DOJ to start and/or maintain this initiative. These funds would be used to offset the initial costs associated with establishing the CJCC, including the salary and fringe of the coordinator and any rent and equipment needed to support this effort. Once established, the Executive Council would seek alternate funding as decided by the Executive Council.

\$180,000

Program coordinator – this position would either be contracted or in-house and would oversee all probation delivered and directly contracted programs. This individual also serves a public information liaison and assists with building/expanding community engagement strategies. This funding would help with startup and then down road we would seek to fund with a % of GIVE, STRIVE, RTA, etc.) This structure came from Pierce Co. visit coordinated through Annie E. Casey and APPA.

\$115,000

School-based Threat Assessment Coordinator – this individual would serve as the coordinator of the youth side of our Central New York Threat Assessment & Management Strategy Team. Working closely with Probation, DCFS, Mental Health, law enforcement, and the schools, this individual would serve as both a liaison between entities and a coordinator of Level 2 assessment meetings and as a Level 1 advisory team member. These funds would pay for salary, fringe, training, and equipment for this individual.

\$115,000

In-house Mental Health Case Manager/Therapist – this suggestion came directly from probation officers. Onondaga County recently lost one of two reliable MH providers and are struggling for MH treatment in a timely fashion for our youth. This funding would assist in contracting with a MH agency to provide a part time clinician to conduct secondary MAYSI screens in office and connect youth with services.

\$65,000

Youth transport vehicle – as the arresting agency for AO & JO VOP arrests, we are responsible for transporting detained youth to Hillbrook Specialized Detention Center following remand at arraignment. We do not currently have a vehicle outfitted for this purpose, and are unable to transport these youth safely to detention. This vehicle will also assist in allowing limited transport of youth to programming, school, etc. when warranted.

\$65,000

PO/service provider Training – this would assist with sending additional POs to Youth Justice conference, additional restorative justice practice training. We would also look at hosting the Academy for Transformational Change for credible messenger training again, in conjunction with community based organizations.

\$50,000

Community Reporting Site(s) for Juveniles – these funds would help to establish locations where probation outreach can be conducted and allow an alternative location for juveniles to report to their PO and access services. The establishment of these “outreach locations” has been discussed in our Mayor’s Office to Reduce Gun Violence Coalition meetings and will allow for a more neighborhood centered approach to address violence. The additional funding would go to rent, equipment, etc.

\$50,000

OT for evidence based behavior programming – this would allow for additional compensation for Probation Officers delivering these programs on top of managing their existing caseloads. Examples currently include Decision Points & Boys Council groups.

\$15,000

GPS Monitoring for Release Under Supervision Youth – This would be offered on a limited basis for youth monitored by probation following indictment in Youth Part and on placed on Release Under Supervision, as a condition of Family Court Supervision, or as a graduated response to Violations of Probation. Family Court does not currently have an option for GPS monitoring, as funding has been limited. GPS costs for youth tend to be higher than adults, as youth are more likely to damage and/or lose or remove equipment.

\$15,000

Youth Engagement Details – these details would allow us to expand our Onondaga County and City Parks details to engage youth during peak times and deter negative youth behavior.

\$10,000

Radios for JJ staff – this would offset the cost of 4 additional radios for JJ staff to use in the field and on Youth related details.

\$11,000

Interactive Journaling Web based platform (Atlas) – this program allows for enhanced tracking and assignment of this cognitive behavioral intervention. We have seen some early success with IJ for youth, but find that they tend to “lose” the materials. This would allow them web-based access.

\$7,500

Chromebooks for youth – these would be used for youth to complete web-based MAYSI, behavior modification classes, job/program applications, both at Probation Department and at community sites.

\$1,500

Total: \$1,000,000

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Does this play into the Hillbrook expansion, or is this pure Probation initiatives?
- If it is pure Probation, what will the department be doing?
 - Pure Probation initiatives, the detention budget is under DCFS
 - Looking to form a coalition with community services including (i.e.) formal mentorship and programming
 - Creating Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – coordination of services already in place
 - Add position of School-based Threat Assessment Coordinator
 - Couple other initiatives including increased use of technology for diversion programming for youth
 - Kept in mind that Probation would not use local dollars without this funding
- What is Probation’s greatest challenge?
 - There have been a lot of changes in the way Probation works with people who committed crimes and have been released to supervision

- Supervising a completely different group of people – (i.e.) lot of gun cases and more serious violent crime
- Catching up with how to monitor these people
- Staying up-to-date with technology and supervision strategies to prevent people from creating more crime
- Changes are regulatory changes
- If this funding goes away, will Probation take on the created position in their budget?
 - Believe Probation will be able to get reimbursed with Raise the Age funding; which is 100% reimbursable
 - Set up the position to be Raise the Age related
- How many vacant positions does Probation have?
 - 3 vacant Probation Officers, 1 vacant administrator position and some clerical

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

3. ONONDAGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (OCPL): Amanda Perrine, Executive Director
a. Amending the 2025 County Budget to Make Funds Available for use by the Onondaga County Public Library for the Purchase of a Vehicle (\$67,000) (Sponsored by Ms. Cody)

PURPOSE: Onondaga County Public Libraries is seeking legislative approval and financial support for the purchase of a replacement vehicle with wrapping to be used to deliver materials to the 10 City Library locations.

BACKGROUND: Onondaga County Public Libraries is currently facing the dilemma of operating its materials delivery system using an aging fleet of vehicles. The delivery system's vehicle inventory includes 4 cargo vehicles ranging in age from 10 to 14 years and have all been driven at or above 100,000 miles. There have been over \$80,000.00 in repair expenses incurred by this fleet of vehicles and as the fleet ages, the maintenance costs rise exponentially. The two oldest vehicles (2 Ford E350 cargo vans) account for 64% of the total fleet maintenance.

One of the Ford Transit 350 XLT cargo vans was replaced in 2024 to deliver materials to the 19 Suburban Libraries in the System. The requested funding for 2025 will replace the other cargo van that services the 10 city locations. The MSRP is approximately \$62,000 and the vehicle wrapping is approximately \$5,000. It will take approximately 10 months after placing an order to procure this vehicle. Keeping this vehicle fleet current is a critical component to having a viable delivery system. Not addressing the need to replace these aging vehicles would begin to cause major delays in the transport of library materials. Currently our delivery time is 2.5 days which is down from 5 days when we have been short staff or vehicles in the past.

Total ask = \$67,000.00
Department 6531000000
A671500 - \$62,000.00
A694100 - \$5,000.00

- Please provide detail as to what type of vehicle the Library is replacing (i.e. how many miles)
 - Have 4 delivery vehicles; 1 replaced last year – had 140K miles and died days after replacement
 - Vehicle looking to replace has 150K miles
 - Used to deliver materials throughout the city – from Central to 8 branches and satellite libraries; used in parades
 - View as a moving billboard
 - Cargo van, similar to Amazon vehicle
- These vehicles are integral to what the library does; 150K city miles is some wear and tear
- Fleet is important and saves money by being able to move books around to libraries, which is cheaper than stocking every book in every library

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

4. **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Mark Manning, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
- a. **Adoption of the Annual Budget for Onondaga Community College for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026, and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts with Other Governmental Units in Which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by the Adoption of the 2026 Budget (\$10,072,000)**

- Operating budget asking to stay flat
- Increase of tuition is modest for what is being done

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Information and Technology Upgrades at Onondaga Community College in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$4,500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,250,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$2,250,000)**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

- c. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Renovations and Upgrades to Buildings at Onondaga Community College in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,750,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$875,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$875,000)**

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

- d. **BOND: A Resolution Authorizing Renovations to the Gordon Student Center at Onondaga Community College in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$22,500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$11,250,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$11,250,000)**

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

5. **COUNTY CLERK:** Emily Bersani, County Clerk
- a. **Mortgage Tax Apportionment (\$5,315,613.73)**

- 6 month report: October 2024 – March 2025; 12% increase from same time period last year
- Previous year 6 month period had higher interest rates with less inventory; sellers' market
- 2 biggest were City of Syracuse for \$1.2M and Town of Clay for little over \$800K

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Onondaga County is one of few, or the only, county that disperses all the funds to towns, villages, city, and Centro
- On top of keeping the municipalities whole

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

6. FINANCE: Amie Wilkinson, Assistant Director in Real Property Tax Services; Ben Yaus, First Chief Deputy County Attorney

a. Approving and Directing the Correction of Certain Errors on Tax Bills

- Real Property:
 - 2 corrections – WEP and state property

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Ayes: 6 Absent: 1 (Abbott); MOTION CARRIED.

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- How far back can the county go when there is a WEP error?
 - Law:
 - Sewer bills is 6 years, taxes are 3 years

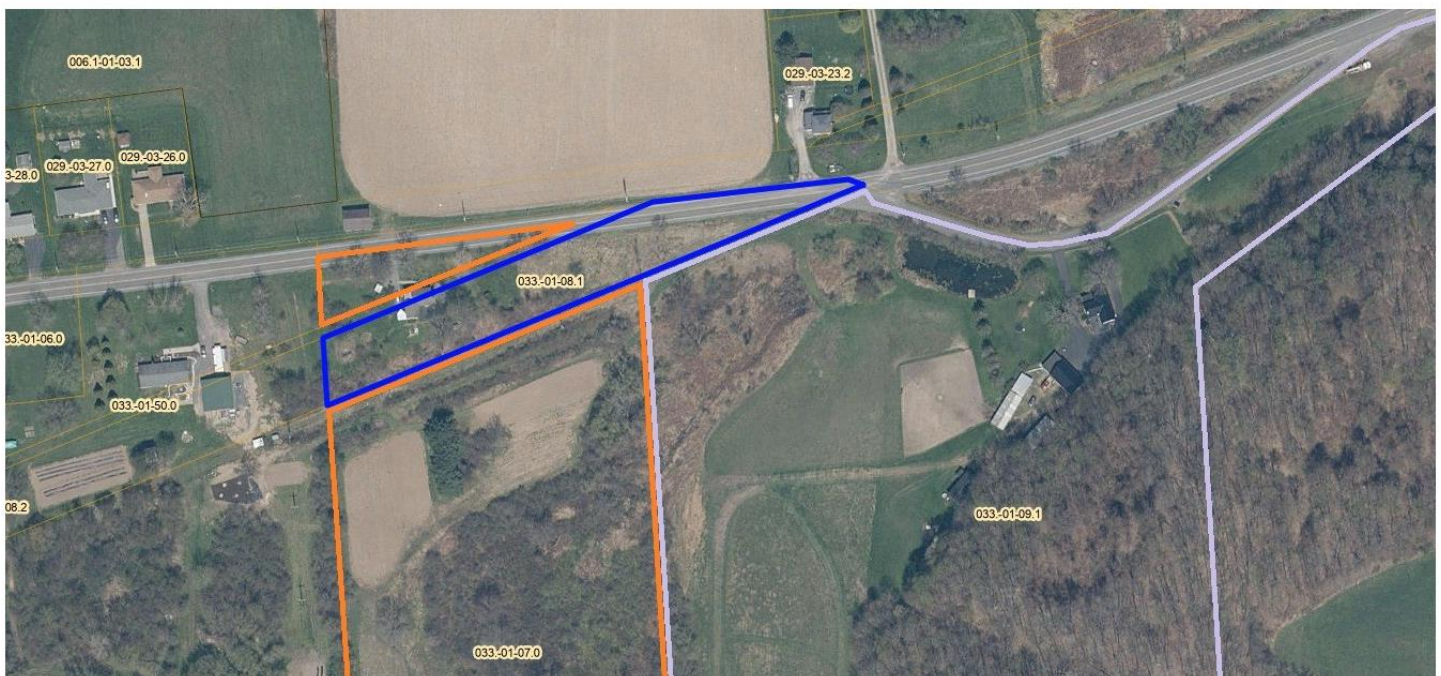
b. A Local Law Authorizing the Sale of Surplus County Property Located in the Town of Elbridge

Mr. Yaus presented the following:

- Local law to allow county to sell abandon trolley line that runs through Camillus
- This stretch is along Peru Road; 2 county tax parcels
- County got the trolley line in 1942
- Pre-existing houses – with property running halfway through a house
- Grandfathered in properties with driveways (and sheds) running through it
- General liability with (i.e.) a tree falling and property disputes with neighbors on either side
- Getting a lot of inquiries lately with people trying to sell, and this is holding up titles
- Used to do use of occupancy permit (and still will), but not ownership interest; not good for banks
- Proposal is to allow the county to sell the 2 parcels for \$1 waived to the adjacent owners
- First map shows the county's property outlined in blue, then the following map shows how it will look after the sale
- The properties will need to get a survey of the parcel to sell it; \$1 waived is to the owner of the parcel only

*Ms. Abbott arrived at the meeting.

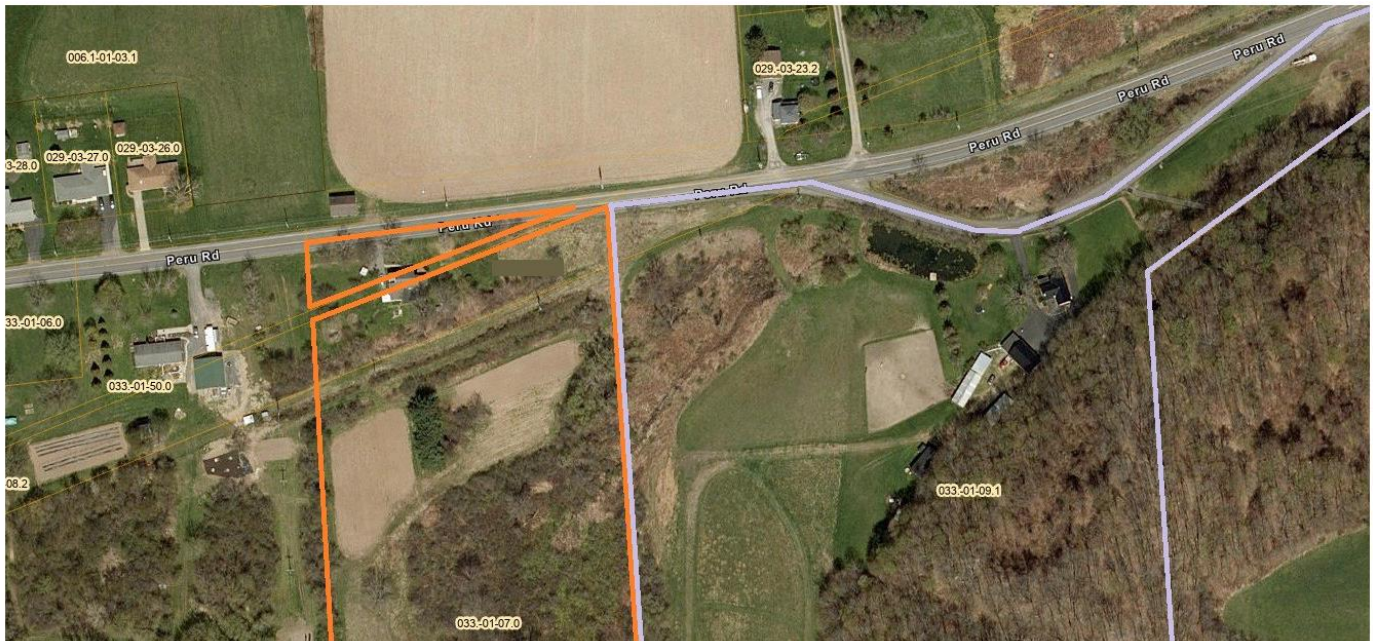
Attachment #1



Current Parcels and Property Lines

- Abandoned Trolley Line Parcel
- 592 Peru Road
- 638 Peru Road

Attachment #2

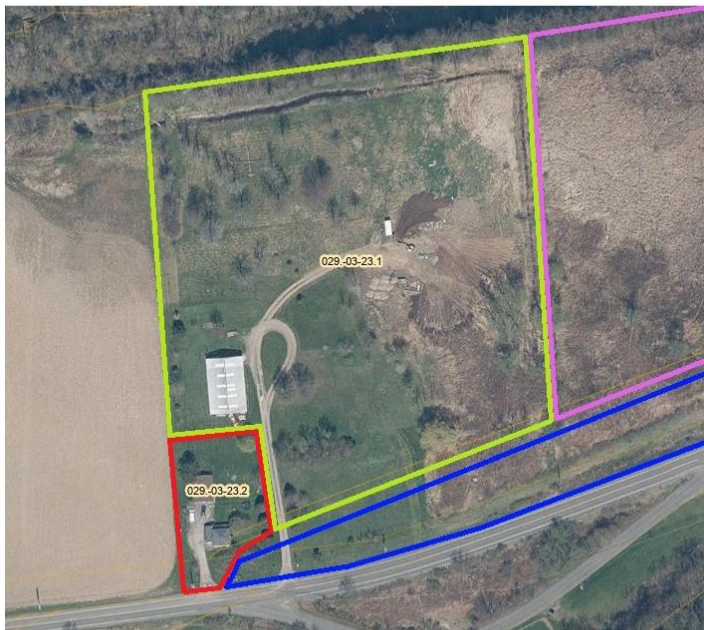


Proposed Future Parcels and Property Lines

592 Peru Road
638 Peru Road

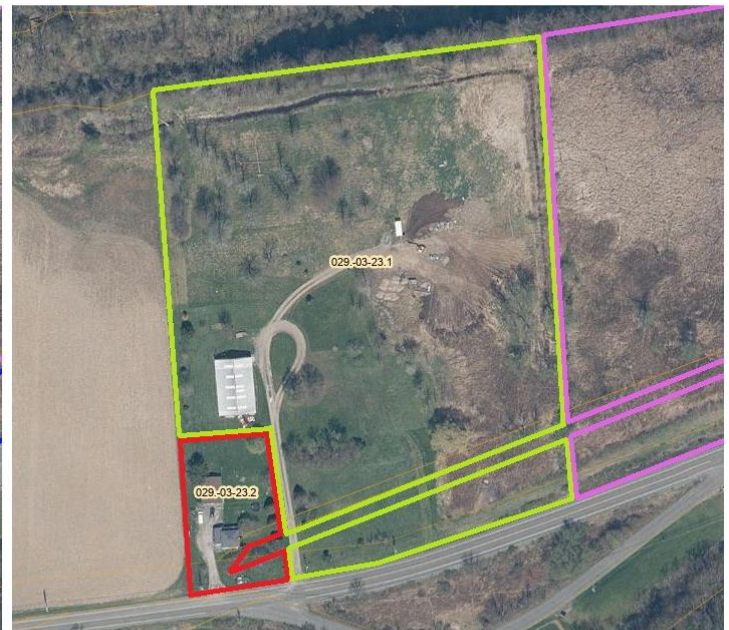
Attachment #3

Attachment #4



Current Parcels and Property Lines

Abandoned Trolley Line
621 Peru Road
627 Peru Road
029-03-22.1



Proposed Parcels and Property Lines

621 Peru Road
627 Peru Road
029-03-22.1

Attachment #5



Current Parcels and Property Lines

Abandoned Trolley Line
627 Peru Road

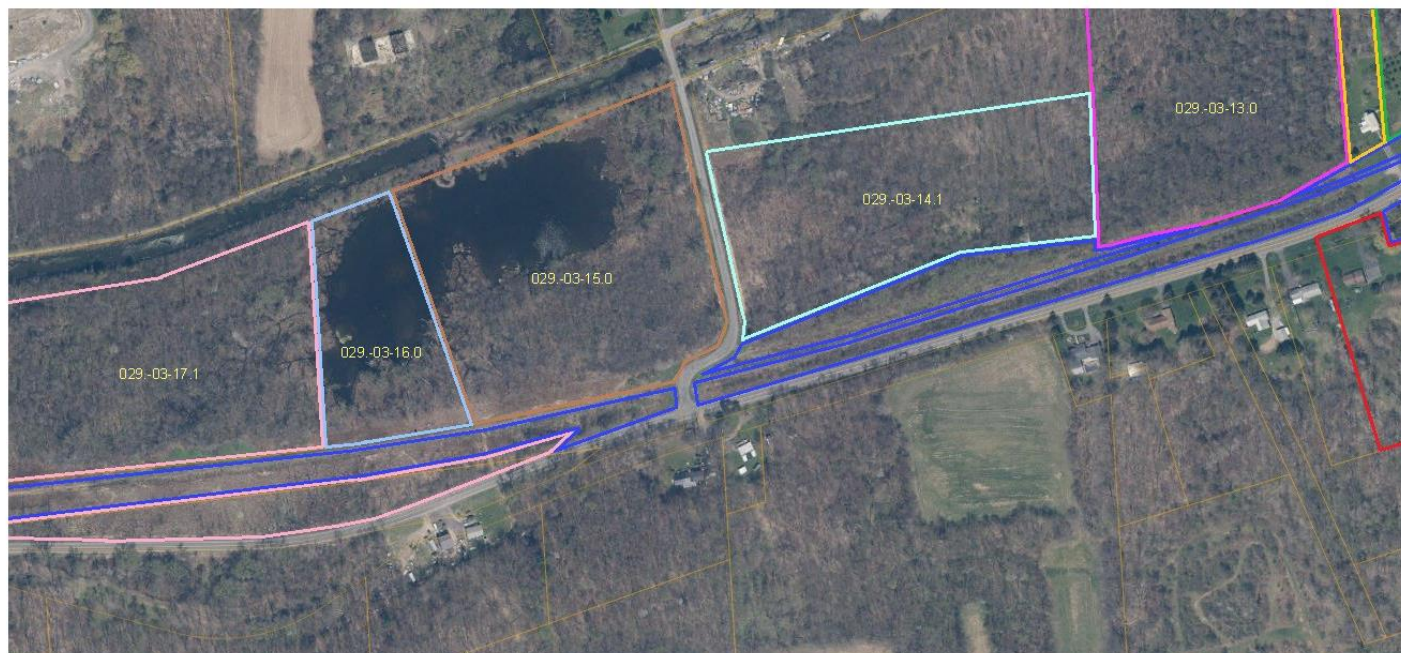
Attachment #6



Proposed Parcels and Property Lines

627 Peru Road

Attachment #7



Current Parcels and Property Lines

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Abandoned Trolley Line |  1033 Peru Road |
|  1020 Peru Road |  1043 Peru Road |

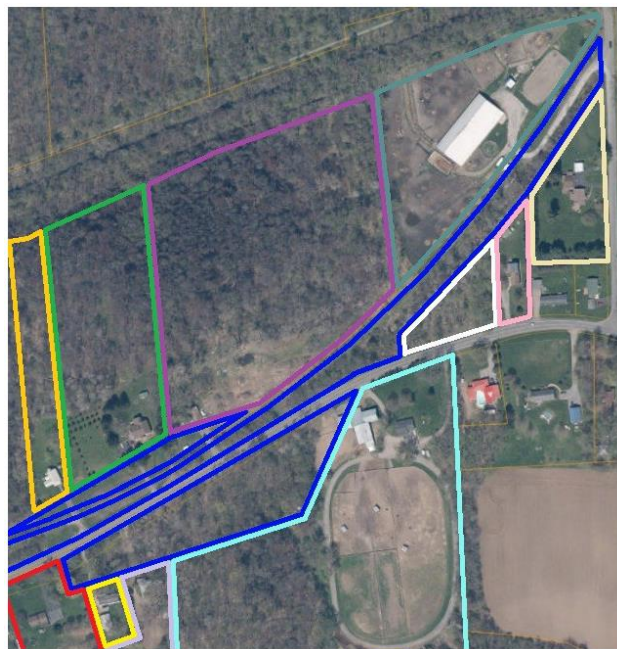
Attachment #8



Proposed Parcels and Property Lines

- | | |
|--|--|
|  1020 Peru Road |  1043 Peru Road |
|  1033 Peru Road | |

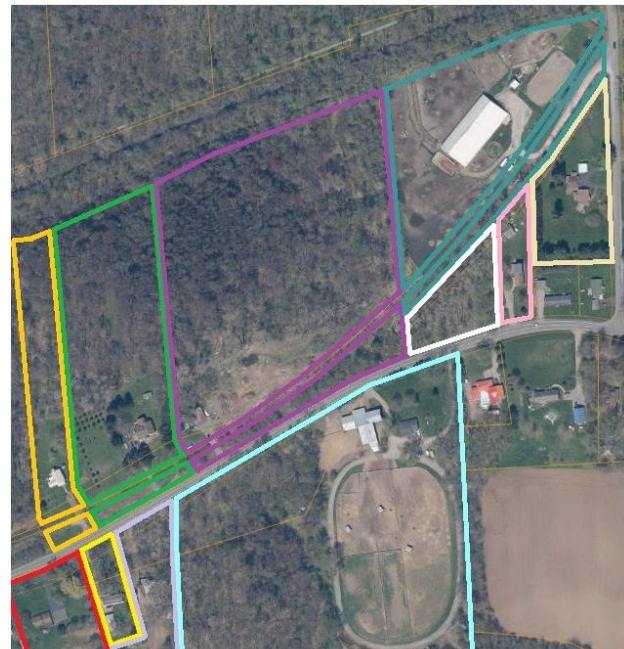
Attachment #9



Current Parcels and Property Lines

Abandoned Trolley Line	1059 Peru Road
1020 Peru Road	1104 Peru Road
1030 Peru Road	029 -03-09.0
1033 Peru Road	1121 Peru Road
1036 Peru Road	6255 S. McDonald Road
1043 Peru Road	6281 S. McDonald Road

Attachment #10

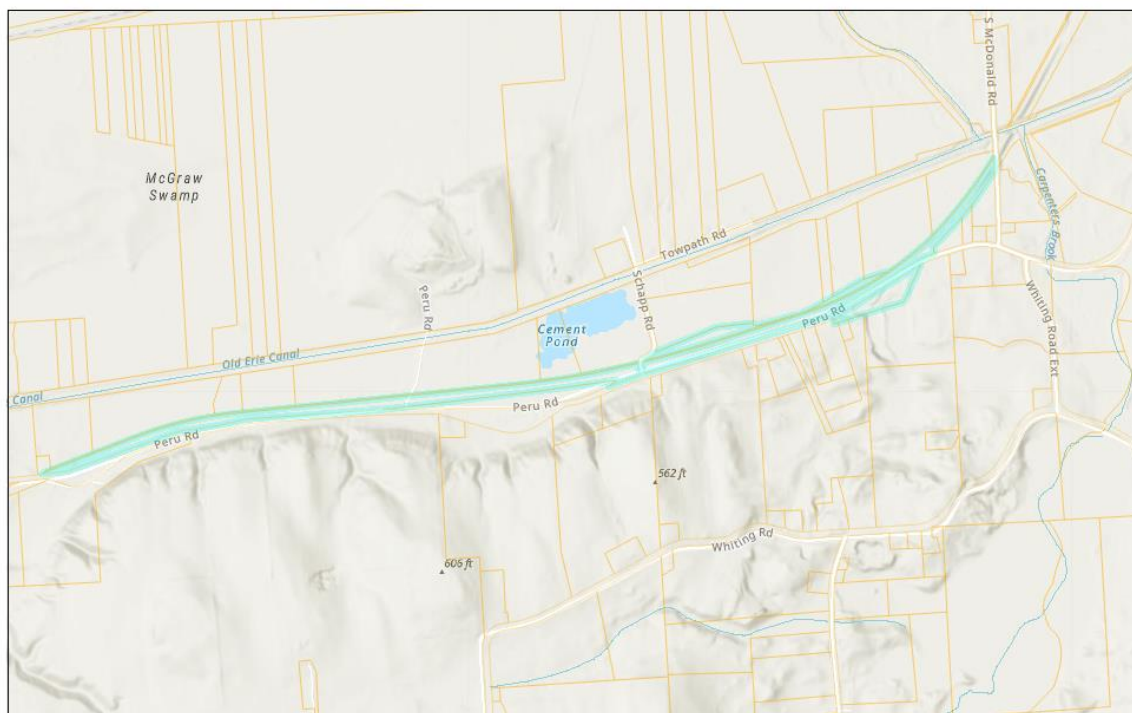


Proposed Future Parcels and Property Lines

1020 Peru Road	1104 Peru Road
1030 Peru Road	029 -03-09.0
1033 Peru Road	1121 Peru Road
1036 Peru Road	6255 S. McDonald Road
1043 Peru Road	6281 S. McDonald Road
1059 Peru Road	

- Line cuts through people's homes, barns, etc., which then will be divided in half to each owner
- County allowing individual property owners to work it out between themselves, whether they want the whole parcel

Letter ANSI A Landscape



March 28, 2025

County Boundary Parcels
Municipalities

1:18,056
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 mi
0 0.17 0.35 0.7 km
Erit, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Sources: Erit, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Has there been any communication with the property owners?
 - Lot of interest from the property owners before and since the notices went out
 - Surplus notices went out – lot of inquiries from that
- Are the owners aware they are responsible for the survey?
 - Yes; there are some home sales pending, and the owner has done it already
- Are the parcels away from Peru Road (east and west) all privately owned?
 - Yes, the blue line is the county's, which will be subdivided and sold to landowners
 - Taking the individual property lines and carrying them up to Peru Road
- The land is to no value to the county, which is why it is sold for \$1; property owners get egress to the road and the land is added to the tax rolls
 - Yes, and the county has no liability if (i.e.) a tree falls
 - Part is equity issue
 - Law could figure out the amount per square foot, but who would the county sell it to
 - It cannot be sold to another owner
 - Would not want an issue if one neighbor pays one amount and another a different amount
 - County will never cut access to a driveway
- Are there easements currently to the road?
 - No; some have gotten use of occupancy permits to give level of comfort, but permits are revocable at any time
- Can the county sell it for \$5?
 - Legal thing to do is \$1 waived; not collecting on the dollar
- Is there an estimated total of what will be put back on the tax rolls?
 - Do not have the square footage, but it will add more taxable value
- Will the Town of Elbridge assessor make sure everything is back on the tax rolls?
 - Yes; working with Ms. Holbrook (in Finance) to add it to be one parcel
- Is there any administrative fee for Law doing this work?
 - No
- Will the county eat that to prevent liability?
 - Currently receiving quite a few emails along this road for people selling
 - This would avoid Law spending time getting use of occupancy permits and doing individual sales that would come to the Legislature on a per parcel basis
 - Will save time doing it all at once, versus piece by piece
- Is the county retaining anything?
 - No, there is a pipeline easement that the county does not own (Buckeye owns)
- The county sold trolley line property in Marcellus, but the county sold it versus the \$1
 - Believe that property did not cut through residences like this parcel does
- Are there other stretches besides Peru Road?
 - Refer to first image – cuts all the way through Camillus
 - One park in Camillus, along Triple E Landfill and Split Rock area; runs along trolley line
 - Some parcels have been sold in years past
 - This is a long stretch; tackling this now, but as they come up, been cleaning up tax books and liabilities
- Was there an assessment done?
 - Yes, able to figure out an amount per square foot based on town assessment

- (i.e.) If it were \$4K to buy this, someone could say no, so what would the county do; would not deny access to road
- There is a value, but who would the county sell it to
- Can get the square footage and email to the Legislature

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Ms. Hernandez, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

7. LEGISLATURE:

a. Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. May, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **MAY 27, 2025**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Mark Manning	OCC
Emily Bersani	Clunk
Lyman Walker	CC
Kristi Smiley	Finance
Montanette Rochon	W & M
Kristen Jackson	Probation
MARK CARTER	OCPL
Amanda Ferraro	OCPL
Dan Kranz	CE
Darcie Lesniak	leg
Amie Wilkinsin	Prop. Tax
Jim Beebe	Leg.
John DeSantis	Leg.
Ethan LaMontagne	Leg.
Ben Yant	Law
Joe Frateschi	Leg.
Isabelle Harris	CE
Cydney Johnson	CE
Brian Donnelly	CE